

Appl. No. 09/912,784
Amdt. dated February 1, 2005
Reply to Office action of November 9, 2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] The present invention relates generally to notebook and other generally portable computing devices. More particularly, the present invention relates to using wireless access to local area networks and the Internet for these computing devices. More particularly still, the present invention relates to an a powered-off seek mode for notebook computers with wireless access capability.

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] The problems noted above are solved in large part by a ~~by~~-system and method that allows the wireless communication module (the device that performs the wireless communication and that is programmed to perform the seek function mentioned above) to perform a seek function without the need of powering-on the attached notebook computer or other portable computing device. More particularly, the wireless communication module attached to the host notebook computer preferably has the electronics required to perform radio frequency communications (the wireless access service), and also preferably has a microcontroller that acts as an interface between the radio components and the host notebook computer. This microcontroller has firmware programs that when executed perform the seek function.

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] The terms "powered-on" and "powered-off" are used throughout this specification. The term "powered-on" means that the computer system is on and may be ~~operation~~ operated by a computer system user. The term "powered-off" means that the computer system is off and is not operational as far as a computer system user is concerned. It should be noted that in most notebook computers, even when the notebook computer is powered-off, there are certain functions and circuits within the computer that are still coupled to active power, e.g., a keyboard controller looking for assertion of a power-on request. It is intended throughout this specification that the term "powered-off" refers to the condition that, as far as

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the computer system user is concerned, the device is not operational. Likewise, it is intended that the term "powered-on" refers to the notebook computer in its operational state. No distinction should be made in the powered-off mode regarding the powering of a limited number of devices within the notebook computer when it is otherwise not operational. These conditions or states of the notebook computer could alternatively be referred to as turned on, turned off, powered up, powered down, and the like.

Please replace paragraph [0043] with the following amended paragraph:

[0043] After receiving power from the power supply 40 and receiving the seek request by means of assertion of the seek signal 64, the wireless communication module 42 preferably executes its seek function. In a preferred embodiment, execution of the seek function involves the execution of software programs by the microcontroller 44. Execution of this program preferably utilizes the radio frequency components 46, 48, 50 and 52 as necessary to perform the seek function. This is preferably the passive scanning as discussed above. When the wireless communication module 42 performs this seeking or scanning when the notebook computer is operational, the results of that seek or scan are transferred across the universal serial bus 28. Using the wireless communication module 42 to seek for wireless access points when the notebook computer 100 is powered-off, however, precludes the transmitting of the results in this manner. Thus, the preferred embodiments inform the computer system user of the availability, and/or unavailability, of a wireless access point by use of a light emitting diode indicator 66. ~~Quite simply, if~~ wireless access points are available, the media access controller 44 preferably asserts a signal which lights the light emitting diode 66.